

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4708

To establish the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada, to facilitate the interpretation of the history of development and use of trails in the settling of the western portion of the United States.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2000

Mr. GIBBONS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To establish the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada, to facilitate the interpretation of the history of development and use of trails in the settling of the western portion of the United States.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “California Trail Inter-  
5       pretive Center Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1           (1) the nineteenth century westward movement  
2           in the United States over the California National  
3           Historic Trail, which occurred from 1840 until the  
4           completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869,  
5           was an important cultural and historical event in—

6                   (A) the development of the western land of  
7           the United States; and

8                   (B) the prevention of colonization of the  
9           west coast by Russia and the British Empire;

10          (2) the movement over the California Trail was  
11          completed by over 300,000 settlers, many of whom  
12          left records or stories of their journeys; and

13          (3) additional recognition and interpretation of  
14          the movement over the California Trail is appro-  
15          priate in light of—

16                   (A) the national scope of nineteenth cen-  
17          tury westward movement in the United States;  
18          and

19                   (B) the strong interest expressed by people  
20          of the United States in understanding their his-  
21          tory and heritage.

22          (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

23                  (1) to recognize the California Trail, including  
24          the Hastings Cutoff and the trail of the ill-fated

1 Donner-Reed Party, for its national, historical, and  
2 cultural significance; and

3 (2) to provide the public with an interpretive fa-  
4 cility devoted to the vital role of the California Trail  
5 and other trails in the West in the development of  
6 the United States.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) CALIFORNIA TRAIL.—The term “California  
10 Trail” means the California National Historic Trail,  
11 established under section 5(a)(18) of the National  
12 Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(18)).

13 (2) CENTER.—The term “Center” means the  
14 California Trail Interpretive Center established  
15 under section 4(a).

16 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
17 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-  
18 rector of the Bureau of Land Management.

19 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
20 of Nevada.

21 **SEC. 4. CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION.—In further-  
23 ance of the purposes of section 7(c) of the National Trails  
24 System Act (16 U.S.C. 1246(c)), the Secretary may estab-  
25 lish and operate an interpretive center, to be known as

1 the “California Trail Interpretive Center”, near the city  
2 of Elko, Nevada, to preserve and interpret the history of  
3 development and use of the California Trail in the settling  
4 of the American West.

5 (b) DEVELOPMENT PLAN.—The Secretary shall pre-  
6 pare a plan for the establishment and operation of the  
7 Center that includes—

8 (1) a detailed description of the design of the  
9 Center;

10 (2) a description of the site on which the Center  
11 is to be located;

12 (3) a description of the method and estimated  
13 cost of acquisition of the site on which the Center  
14 is to be located;

15 (4) an estimate of the cost of construction of  
16 the Center;

17 (5) an estimate of the cost of operation and  
18 maintenance of the Center; and

19 (6) a description of the manner and extent to  
20 which non-Federal entities will participate in the ac-  
21 quisition, construction, and operation of the Center.

22 (c) SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.—

23 (1) MASTER PLAN STUDY.—In preparing the  
24 development plan required by subsection (b) and es-  
25 tablishing the Center, the Secretary shall consider

1 the findings contained in the master plan study for  
2 the California Trail Interpretive Center prepared  
3 pursuant to the authorization on page 15 of Senate  
4 Report 106–99 to accompany the Department of the  
5 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill,  
6 2000 (S. 1292).

7 (2) LOCAL PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary  
8 may provide for local review of, and input con-  
9 cerning, the establishment and operation of the Cen-  
10 ter by the Advisory Board for the National Historic  
11 California Emigrant Trails Interpretive Center of  
12 the city of Elko, Nevada.

13 (d) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may  
14 acquire land and interests in land for the construction of  
15 the Center by—

16 (1) donation;

17 (2) purchase with donated or appropriated  
18 funds; or

19 (3) exchange.

20 (e) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET.—The  
21 Secretary shall periodically prepare a budget and funding  
22 request for the maintenance and operation of the Center.

23 (f) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary  
24 may enter into a cooperative agreement with—

1           (1) the State regarding the provision by the  
2       State of assistance in—

3           (A) the removal of snow from roads serv-  
4       ing the Center;

5           (B) rescue, firefighting, and law enforce-  
6       ment services for the Center; and

7           (C) the coordination of activities of nearby  
8       law enforcement and firefighting departments  
9       or agencies; and

10          (2) a Federal, State, or local agency to develop  
11       or operate facilities and services to carry out this  
12       Act.

13       (g) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—

14           (1) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT.—Notwithstanding  
15       any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept  
16       donations of funds, property, or services from an in-  
17       dividual, foundation, corporation, or public entity to  
18       assist the Secretary in establishing or operating the  
19       Center.

20           (2) STATE AND LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—The  
21       Secretary shall accept contributions for the Center  
22       (to be payable during the construction of the Center)  
23       from—

24           (A) the State, in the amount of  
25       \$3,000,000;

1 (B) Elko County, Nevada, in the amount  
2 of \$1,000,000; and

3 (C) the city of Elko, Nevada, in the  
4 amount of \$2,000,000.

5 (3) USE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary  
6 shall use contributions received under this subsection  
7 to establish and operate the Center.

8 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
10 retary \$12,000,000 to establish the Center.

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